

**§ 302.317 Availability of data to Postal Service.**

The representatives of the Postal Service shall have access to all conference data and, insofar as practicable, shall be furnished copies of all pertinent data prepared by the DOT employees and the carrier, and a reasonable time shall be allowed to get acquainted with the facts and issues and to make any presentation deemed necessary. *Provided*, That in cases other than those involving an issue as to the service mail rates payable by the Postal Service pursuant to section 406(c) of the Act representatives of the Postal Service shall be furnished with copies of data under this provision only upon their written request.

**§ 302.318 Post-conference procedure.**

The rate conferences not being in the nature of proceedings, no briefs, or argument, or any formal steps, will be entertained by the Department. The form, content and time of the staff's presentation to the Department are entirely matters of internal procedure. Any party to the mail rate proceeding may, through an authorized DOT employee, request the opportunity to submit a written or oral statement to the DOT decisionmaker on any unresolved issue. The Department will grant such requests whenever it deems such action desirable in the interest of further clarification and understanding of the issues. The granting of an opportunity for such further presentation shall not, however, impair the rights that any party might otherwise have under the act and the rules of practice.

**§ 302.319 Effect of conference agreements.**

No agreements or understanding reached in rate conferences as to facts or issues shall in any respect be binding on the Department or any participant. Any party to mail rate proceedings will have the same rights to file an answer and take other procedural steps as though no rate conference had been held. The fact, however, that rate conferences were held and certain agreements or understandings may have been reached on certain facts and issues renders it proper to provide that upon the filing of an

answer by any party to the rate proceeding all issues going to the establishment of a rate shall be open, except insofar as limited in prehearing conference in accordance with § 302.23.

**§ 302.320 Waiver of §§ 302.313 and 302.314.**

After the termination of a mail rate conference hereunder, the carrier, whose rates were in issue, may petition the Department for a release from the obligations imposed upon it and all other persons by §§ 302.313 and 302.314. The Department will grant such petition only after a detailed and convincing showing is made in the petition and supporting exhibits and documents that there is no reasonable possibility that any of the abuses sought to be prevented will occur or that the Department's processes will in any way be prejudiced. There will be no hearing or oral argument on the petition and the Department will grant or deny the request without assigning reasons therefor.

**§ 302.321 Time of commencing and terminating conference.**

At the commencement of an informal mail rate conference pursuant to this section, the authorized DOT employees conducting such conferences shall issue to each person present at such conference a written statement to the effect that such conference is being conducted pursuant to this section and stating the time of commencement of such conference; and at the termination of such conference the DOT employees conducting such conference shall note in writing on such statement the time of termination of such conference.

**Subpart D—Rules Applicable to Exemption Proceedings****§ 302.400 Applicability.**

This subpart sets forth the rules applicable to proceedings for exemptions under sections 101(3), 416(b)(1), 416(b)(3), and 416(b)(7) of the Federal Aviation Act. It also provides for the granting of emergency exemptions. The provisions of Subpart A of this part also apply to such proceedings where not inconsistent with this subpart. Proceedings